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Efflorescence

What is the powdery white substance showing up on the surface of the concrete?

This chalky residue, called *efflorescence*, is caused by water coming up through the concrete, evaporating, and bringing dissolved minerals to the surface.

Efflorescence is common with any concrete mix using Portland cement. These white marks do not indicate any structural or manufacturing defects with the concrete. The residue normally wears off or can be washed off of unsealed concrete surfaces. Soap and water can be used for cleaning, or a commercial efflorescence remover can be purchased. Please note that repeatedly using a commercial efflorescence remover could affect concrete color, and continue to bring soluble minerals to the surface.

Commercial concrete sealers can be used to help restore and protect precast concrete pieces, as well. These are sprayed or painted onto dry, clean concrete.